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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/864,200	05/25/2001	Keiki Watanabe	ASA-1006	1691
24956	7590	09/17/2004	EXAMINER	
MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C. 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD SUITE 370 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			AHN, SAM K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2637	

DATE MAILED: 09/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/864,200

Applicant(s)

WATANABE ET AL.

Examiner

Sam K. Ahn

Art Unit

2637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 May 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 072701.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to because it appears in Fig.2A that the communication between the SEL (selector) and PHCa (phase comparator) is not correctly shown wherein the SEL should provide its output to PHCa. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
2. Figure 8 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid

abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.121(d)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claims 1-9 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, line 3, delete "which input" and insert "which an input".

In claim 1, lines 4-5, delete "concerned with the input data".

In claim 1, lines 8-9, delete "which is supplied from an outside"

In claim 1, lines 9-10, delete "a selection signal from the outside" and insert "an external selection signal".

In claim 1, line 13, delete "read clock producing circuit" and insert "circuit for producing the read clock".

In claim 2, lines 3-4, delete "a control signal from the outside" and insert "an external control signal".

In claim 2, line 4, recites "and a clock signal". It appears that the claim is produces "said write clock.... and said read clock based on said PLL clock ---" as the PLL clock output from VOCb in Fig.2A is frequency divided to produce the read clock.

In claim 2, line 5, delete "which is supplied from said outside".

In claim 2, lines 8-9, delete "the control signal from said outside" and insert "the external control signal".

In claim 5, line 2, delete "transfer" and insert "transfer a".

In claim 6, line 2, delete "received data formed with" and insert "an input data formed in".

In claim 6, line 4, delete "receiving input" and insert "receiving an input".

In claim 6, line 5, delete "to the device".

In claim 6, lines 8-9, delete "a stabilized clock externally of said chip" and insert "an external stabilized clock".

In claim 6, lines 10-11, delete "a control signal externally of said chip" and insert "an external control signal".

In claim 6, line 24, delete "stabilized clock" and insert "external stabilized clock".

In claim 6, line 30, delete "clock." and insert "clock for correctly transferring said input data".

In claim 7, line 6, delete "clock" and insert "reference clock".

In claim 8, line 2, delete "received data formed with" and insert "an input data formed in".

In claim 8, lines 4-5, delete "input data to the device" and insert "said input data".

In claim 8, lines 8-9, delete "a stabilized clock externally of said chip" and insert "an external stabilized clock".

In claim 8, line 11, delete "externally of said chip".

In claim 8, line 21, delete "means" and insert "a write clock generating means".

In claim 8, line 24, delete "for correctly transferring said input data".

In claim 8, line 27, delete "said stabilized" and insert "said external stabilized".

In claim 8, line 34, delete "means" and insert "a read clock generating means".

In claim 8, line 40, delete "phase-compare" and insert "compare phases between".

In claim 8, lines 41-42, delete "based on a phase comparison result" and insert "based on the result of said phase comparison".

In claim 8, line 47, delete "clock." and insert "clock in said semiconductor integrated circuit apparatus".

In claim 9, line 6, delete "clock" and insert "reference clock".

Claim 4 directly depends on claim 1.

Appropriate correction is required.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 1-9 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the claim objections, set forth in this Office action.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:  
Present application discloses a clock producing circuit and semiconductor integrated circuit apparatus comprising a buffer, clock switching means, a circuit for producing the read clock which comprises a PLL circuit. The combination of the elements

recited functions to select a write clock or an stable external clock depending on the current phase difference between the write clock and the read clock. The selected clock is provided to the PLL circuit wherein the read clock is derived from the PLL clock. Closest prior art, Yoshida teaches a destuff circuit for asynchronous digital signals wherein a read clock and a write clock controls the read and write of the buffer memory. The read clock is produced by the output of a PLL circuit. However, Yoshida does not teach all the elements and the functions claimed. Therefore, prior arts do not teach or suggest in combination of all the limitations claimed.

### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nishio et al. teach a synchronization circuit comprising a clock select circuit for a buffer memory.

Rude teaches a synchronized-multiplexer comparing sub-bit of a clock and a clock associated with a synchronized data stream to generate a threshold level for synchronized data stream timing.

Denike et al. teach a link receiver comprising a local timing circuitry generating a local timing information based on link timing information and reading the data stored in buffer based on the generated timing information.

7. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

Drawings and claim objections.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

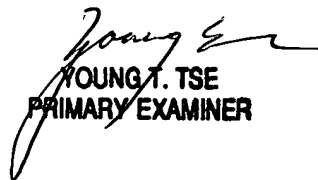
A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sam Ahn whose telephone number is (571) 272-3044. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sam K. Ahn  
9/13/04

  
YOUNG T. TSE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER